

André's life and began training him for ministry as an "acolyte".

Mr. Soleil is a talented artist and his drawings, paintings and craftworks have been displayed at cultural events and museums since his pre-teens. Mayor Michael O'Laughlin honored the 15-year-old Soleil by appointing him to the Niagara Falls Council of the Arts for his role in many school and community productions in semi-professional and professional regional productions of *The Wiz*, *Pippin*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, to name a few.

In 1985, André Soleil came to New York at 17 and attended Parsons School of Design, majoring in illustration and painting. In 1989, André Soleil's son, Donald, was born. While looking for work after the closing of "Little Wing", Reverend Soleil took a part time job at the New York Public Interest Group, Inc. Soon after Reverend Soleil was promoted to Department Director, he began his career in activism, law and politics. Reverend Soleil was appointed by then Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger to Manhattan's Community Board 12. Mayor Giuliani next appointed Mr. Soleil to the position of Executive Liaison in the Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs to the Public Health, Human Rights, General Welfare and Cultural Affairs Committees of the New York City Council. Subsequently, Governor George Pataki appointed Mr. Soleil to the Executive Chamber staff as Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. A year later, in 1996, Reverend Soleil completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from LaSalle University, cum laude.

Mr. Soleil attended City University of New York School of Law at Queens College from 1999 to 2002, where he then became President of the Class of 2002 and Editor-in-Chief of the New York City Law Journal in 2000. In 2000, America's Black Law Student Association elected André National Executive Director of the National Black Law Student's Association's 73 Chapters and 8,000 members; and in 2001, these students elected him to the Board of Governors of the National Bar Association. In 2002, Reverend Soleil graduated, achieving his Juris Doctorate and his Master of Arts degree in Business Administration and Media Management, with honors from Metropolitan College of New York.

In 2003, Reverend Soleil returned to the work of Jesus Christ and His church. In 2004, Bishop Dr. Wesley J. Wiley and the Elders of the Resurrection Temple of Our Lord ordained Mr. Soleil as a Reverend. Rev. Soleil then entered Columbia Evangelical Seminary to obtain his Doctorate of Ministry. In 2003, Reverend Soleil was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York and founded his law firm, Soleil & Company, P.C., which was opened out of his apartment's living room. In six years, Soleil & Company, P.C. now employs four attorneys, six staff members, and is known for innovative litigation, criminal defense and mortgage/foreclosure defense work. Soleil & Company, P.C. has taken Mayor Bloomberg to task as lead counsel in the matter of *Cohen v. Bloomberg*, a citizens' lawsuit to block the Mayor's destruction of the term limits law, and has developed a reputation for innovative legal practice in criminal, real-estate, civil rights and family law practice.

Rev. Soleil founded Christian Way, Ltd. in 2007, a non-profit advocacy and research group dedicated to the development, protection and promotion of Christianity as a way of

life. He also hosts a daily early-morning radio bible study program, "Breakfast with the Bible," that is carried by Massachusetts and Texas based radio and Internet broadcasts.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend André Ramón Soleil.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LANCE GOODWIN

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lance Goodwin, a devoted community servant who has done so much for our community by establishing Trucked Out, Inc., a parent organization for a number of clubs. Lance's vision expanded to form Trucked Out Divas SUV Club and Trucked Out SUV Social Club. These clubs partner with politicians, police precincts, churches, and community organizations for the betterment of their neighborhoods.

Mr. Goodwin attended New York City public schools and graduated from George Westinghouse High School. Upon graduating, Mr. Goodwin opted to work so that he could have an income which would make him more independent. After several jobs, he landed an ideal job with the phone company Bell Atlantic, now Verizon. It was during this time that he started the Trucked Out SUV Club with the help of friends. He envisioned him and his friends making a difference in the lives of those they encountered on a daily basis. The members of Trucked Out SUV Club consider themselves to be blessed to be able to afford their vehicles in which they ride and established a model of responsible living for their peers. Lance also saw the need for strong male influences in the lives of children at his son's High School PTA meetings.

Trucked Out's members are all firm believers in the saying "each one teach one". Trucked Out has sponsored a variety of community events over the years and will continue to do so every year, most notably, their Back to School Giveaway, a Halloween Party for the women in need of shelter. Trucked Out gives out over one thousand toys each holiday season and hosts several teen parties at its clubhouse so our teens have a place to go and enjoy themselves without fear of violence. Trucked Out is also a sponsor of the New York Warriors kid's football team.

Whether it is to protest an act of violence, a crime against a member of the community, a vigil to remember the life of someone or to go to a funeral to give support to a grieving family, Trucked Out will continue to help out in any way it can in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lance Goodwin.

#### IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1327,

the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009. Iran's ambition to become a nuclear power is unquestionably clear, and now is the time for debilitating sanctions that will curtail this dangerous path.

Despite the assertions of Iranian leaders that they seek to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes alone, their actions and obfuscation suggest otherwise. Further, President Ahmadinejad has continued to cause international frustration through comments he made at the United Nations summit in September. His efforts also go far beyond words. On numerous occasions, Ahmadinejad has tested mid to long range missiles, and in February 2009, Iran launched a low-orbit rocket that is the necessary first step to firing an intercontinental ballistic missile. Further, intelligence sources point to Iran's ready capability of firing short, medium, and long range missiles that endanger our brave men and women deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I therefore do not support President Obama's cuts to missile defense in the FY10 National Defense Authorization Act. In fact, I believe that we are putting our friends and allies at risk, as well as the eastern shore of the United States. However, if this chamber is forced to rely so heavily on economic sanctions, we must encourage and enable American divestment from Iran to squeeze their economy to a point that will rein in their dangerous ambitions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

#### A TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN BILL DE BLASIO

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Councilman Bill de Blasio, a tenacious leader in the community and an inspiration to all of New York.

Bill de Blasio understands the importance of education. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from New York University; he then attended Columbia University and earned a Master of Arts degree in International and Public Affairs.

Councilman de Blasio began his impressive political career in New York City government in the 1989 David Dinkins mayoral race. Following the campaign, Mr. de Blasio served as an aide in Dinkins' Administration, where he worked on projects such as the Safe Streets, Safe City initiative to reduce crime throughout New York City. While working at City Hall under Mayor Dinkins and later with the City Council, he learned first hand how city government works. He used this knowledge in the passage of key legislation establishing New York City's domestic partnership program. Later, Mr. de Blasio would eventually manage Hillary Rodham Clinton's successful run for Senate.

From working for the parents of Community School District 15, where he helped spearhead some of the most comprehensive reforms in the city, such as capping first grade class size at 20 students and establishing universal Pre-Kindergarten; to serving as the highest-ranking official in the New York/New

Jersey region for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. de Blasio fights the tough fights and wins. As a member of the New York City Council, he continues to serve the people of New York, and specifically the residents of Brooklyn's 39th Council District. Mr. de Blasio's most recent accomplishment is becoming the New York City Democratic Party's Public Advocate-Elect.

Throughout Mr. de Blasio's career, the common thread that runs through is his desire to better the quality of life for all New Yorkers by improving public education, creating affordable housing and fighting discrimination based on race, religion, physical disability or sexual orientation. He has been instrumental in directing increased federal funding for affordable housing, senior citizen housing and economic development in the region.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing New York City Councilman Bill de Blasio, who is expected to be our City's Public Advocate. He is a dynamic community leader and true public servant.

#### A TRIBUTE TO EDNA M. JOHNSON

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 16, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Edna M. Johnson, a model citizen and extraordinary leader in the community.

Edna Johnson was born and raised in a small steel mill town in Clairton, Pennsylvania, the youngest of nine children. Ms. Johnson began singing at the age of seven and, because of her love of music, Ms. Johnson began singing in several different locales, including church and eventually as member of the group "Naomi Shelton and the Gospel Queens".

After graduating from Clairton High School, she relocated to New York City. She found solace with her church family when she joined Broadway United Church of Christ, where she served as Deacon, Trustee and Steward. Never forgetting the importance of education that her parents instilled in her, Ms. Johnson's church family assisted her with attending Pace University. She would later receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Ms. Johnson has always understood the importance of service, working as a parent organizer in the public schools and as a tenant organizer. She was the first to successfully implement the Neighborhood Revitalization Program with New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. While living in Manhattan, she became chairperson of the Tenant Association in Clinton Towers for five years. She also chaired the 79th Precinct Community Council for six years, where she helped facilitate a more cohesive relationship between the people and the local police.

Always eager to serve, she is currently a member of Community Board 3 and has received several citations for perfect attendance. In her first year on the Board, she was Chairperson of the Police, Fire and Safety Committee. Ms. Johnson now serves on the Health Hospital and Social Science Committee. She also serves as first Vice President for Northeast Brooklyn Housing Company Inc. and Second Vice President for the African American Planning Commission Inc.

Ms. Johnson currently serves as Special Assistant to the Honorable EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS, navigating federal agencies on behalf of hundreds of constituents and serving as a liaison to the broader community.

In recognition of her services, she has received citations from Congressman EDOLPHUS TOWNS, City Councilmember Annette Robinson, The New York City Police Department, The 79th Precinct Council, The Brooklyn Job Corps, A.I.D.P. at P.S.26, Hebron Baptist Church, Greater Cross Road Baptist Church, Bridge Street Development Corporation, The Bedford Stuyvesant Community Block Association and The National Night Out Committee.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Edna M. Johnson, a tireless community organizer, and dedicated servant of the public.

#### EXTENDING AUTHORITY TO BUILD VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

SPEECH OF

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R.

3689, a bill to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center will pay a further tribute to the men and women who defended our nation's freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Currently, there are three other monuments that mark the sacrifice paid by these brave individuals on the National Mall. They are the Three Soldiers statue, the Vietnam Women's memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Just last year, there were over 3.8 million visitors to these memorials, and I believe that constructing a visitor center to facilitate their passion for our veterans is a noble cause.

The visitor center will become one of the largest war memorials in Washington, DC at 25,000 square feet. It will be built underground in front of the Lincoln Memorial and may include a movie theater, a three-dimensional battle scene, mementos left at the memorial, and a wall where pictures of slain soldiers will be displayed on their birthdays. The center will surely prove to be a fantastic tribute to the service and sacrifices made by veterans of the Vietnam War and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the brave men and women who have sacrificed for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's service men and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center is another act of appreciation for our veterans and a reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad. It is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.